

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-32 (canceled).

33. (currently amended) A receiver apparatus for receiving a program and outputting it to other apparatuses, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting said program to said other apparatus;
and

a controller for controlling an output of said output circuit, so as to manage a number of said other apparatuses, through which the program can be viewed or recorded simultaneously,

wherein said controller determines the number of said other apparatuses,

wherein said controller determines whether said other apparatuses are regularly certified apparatuses which can receive said program, and

wherein said controller restricts the number of said other apparatuses, to which said output circuit can output said program, to the regularly certified apparatuses, and restricts the number of the regularly certified apparatuses which can simultaneously view or record the program being output to be less than or equal to a predetermined number.

34. (previously presented) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein said control circuit provides no program to the other apparatuses other than that, to which the control circuit is outputting at

present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

35. (previously presented) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 34, wherein said control circuit gives notice to the other apparatus, to which said program is not being output, that no program is to be output through said output circuit.

36. (previously presented) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, further comprising:

an input circuit for inputting a command from said other apparatuses,
wherein said input circuit inputs an outputting requirement for said program from said other apparatuses.

37. (previously presented) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein said control circuit interrupts an output to one set of the other apparatuses, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

38. (currently amended) A receiver apparatus as defined in the claim 33, wherein the number of the other apparatuses, through which the program can be viewed or recorded simultaneously, is determined based on a receiving contract between a provider of said program and a user of said receiver apparatus.

39. (currently amended) An information output apparatus for outputting Audio Visual (AV) data received from a source of said data to other apparatuses, comprising:

an output circuit for outputting said data received from the source to said other apparatuses; and

a controller for controlling an output of said output circuit, so as to manage a number of said other apparatuses, through which the data can be viewed or recorded simultaneously,

wherein said controller determines whether the number of said other apparatuses, determines whether said other apparatuses are regularly certified apparatuses which can receive said data, restricts said other apparatuses, to which said output circuit outputs said data, to the regularly certified apparatuses, and restricts ~~the regularly certified~~ said other apparatuses which can simultaneously view or record the data being output to be less than or equal to said predetermined number.

40. (previously presented) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39, wherein said control circuit provides no data to the other apparatuses other than that, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

41. (previously presented) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 40, wherein said control circuit gives notice to the other

apparatuses, to which no data is being output, that no data is to be output, through said output circuit.

42. (previously presented) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39, further comprising:

an input circuit for inputting a command from said other apparatuses, wherein said input circuit inputs an outputting requirement for said data from said other apparatuses.

43. (previously presented) An information output apparatus as defined in the claim 39, wherein said control circuit interrupts an output to one set of the other apparatuses, to which the control circuit is outputting at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which the control circuit is outputting at present is equal to said predetermined number.

44. (currently amended) An information output method for outputting Audio Visual (AV) data received from a source of said data to other apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

managing a number of said other apparatuses, through which said data received from the source can be viewed or recorded simultaneously, by determining the number of said other apparatuses, determining whether said other apparatus are regularly certified apparatuses which can receive said data, and restricting said other apparatuses, to which the data is to output, to the regularly certified apparatuses; and

restricting the number of the regularly certified apparatuses which can

simultaneously view or record the data being output to be less than or equal to a predetermined number.

45. (previously presented) An information output method as defined in the claim 44, wherein no data is provided to the other apparatuses other than that, to which data is being output at present, when the number of the other apparatuses to which data is being output at present is equal to said predetermined number.

46. (previously presented) An information output method as defined in the claim 45, wherein a notice is given to the other apparatuses, to which no data is being output, that no data is to be output.

47. (previously presented) A receiver apparatus, as defined in the claim 33, wherein said output circuit outputs said program being coded.

48. (currently amended) An information output apparatus, as defined in the claim 39, wherein said output circuit outputs said ~~program~~data being coded.

49. (currently amended) An information output method, as defined in the claim 44, wherein said output circuit outputs said ~~program~~data being coded.